PRESIDENT: That is exactly the point that I was trying to point out when the Government member was answering on the basis of newspaper reports.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Yesterday it was said that Government never rely on newspaper reports.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): May I know from the member whether the information as to the reduction of tariff value was published in the Gazette.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It was published in the Gazette last year.

Duty on Coir Yarn imported into France.

99. ❋**MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that coir yarn imported into France is now subjected to a duty of 75 Francs per 100 kilos *plus* 15% *ad-valorem* as a result of coir yarn being classified as "Cordelettes de Coco"; and

(*b*) whether they have taken any action with a view to having coir yarn classified as "Fibre de Coco" as before or for effecting a reduction in the import duty?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): May I know from the member what quality of yarn is being imported into France from Travancore?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): In a letter which the Chamber of Commence sent to the Government, I find that mostly it is the finer variety of yarn that is imported into France.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know whether the Government have understood the difference between the classifications "Cordelettes de Coco" and "Fibre de Coco" (*Laughter.*)?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The one refers to coir fibre and the other refers to coir yarn.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): So am I to understand that Government are going to take action in the matter of classification?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): That is under consideration.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know how the classification is going to change the import duty?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Government are considering what action they can take in the matter.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether this prohibitive duty imposed by France was necessitated on account of the fact that you impose export duty on yarn?

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): No, Sir; that has nothing to do with the question.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether France manufactures coir mats and mattings?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): They do.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether the export duty imposed on coir yarn will affect adversely that manufacture?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The export duty on coir yarn will only enhance the price at which France can get yarn.

MR. K. KUNJUKISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether that will not affect the industry there of mats and mattings?

PRESIDENT: That is obvious.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Then may I know, in view of that fact, whether Government will consider the necessity of reducing or abolishing the export duty on coir yarn?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): That is a hypothetical question, Sir.

Duty of Coir mattings imported into Canada.

100. *MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the enhancement of duty on coir mattings imported into Canada and the consequent fall in exports of that commodity from Travancore to Canadian ports and, if so, what action they have taken to remedy the situation?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes. The Government of India were addressed with a view to the relaxation of the tariff restrictions on the importation of coir mattings into Canada, and they have replied to say that negotiations for a trade agreement between India and Canada are in progress and that the question of duties on coir mats and floor-coverings in Canada will be considered in that connection.

PRESIDENT: From France we go to Canada now. (*Laughter*).

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): May I know the existing import duty on mats and mattings imported into Canada?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I have no information.

Duty on Coir mats imported into U. S. A.

101. *MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the enhancement of duty on coir mats imported into the U. S. A. and, if so, what action they have taken to bring about a reduction in the rate of import duty?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes. The Government of India were requested to move for reduction in the rate of duty on coir mats imported into the U. S. A. but they have written to say that, in view of the present American tariff policy, they consider that a representation to the Government of the U. S. A. for a reduction of the increased rate of duty on Indian coir mats and floor-coverings is not likely to prove effective.

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